

LEDBURY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTHFOR THE YEAR1943.STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.Medical Officer of Health:

WILLIAM HOGG, M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., M.R.S.I.

Clerical Staff:

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Worcester Road,
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Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1943. The Report is in accordance with Circular 10/44 of the Ministry of Health and covers only some of the activities of the Public Health Department.

The position with regard to water supplies has been dealt with in as much detail as can be given in present circumstances.

The figures given in the Report as regards population, notifications, etc. refer only to civilians. The health of the inhabitants of the district during the year was good; the incidence of diphtheria was lower than in previous years.

I take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the support which the council has always given me in the discharge of my duties.

I have also to acknowledge the assistance which has been given me in the preparation of this Report and throughout the year by my colleagues Mr. H.W. Orme, Clerk to the Council, Mr. W. Parks, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, and Mr. A.T. Thomas, Financial Officer.

Yours faithfully,

WILLIAM HOGG.

June 1944.Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A: STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA:

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	499
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1943)	...	...	...	...	...	...	968
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£18,238
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£72.0.0

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year:

<u>Live Birth Rate</u> per 1,000 of estimated resident population	16.8
<u>Stillbirth Rate</u> per 1,000 Total Births (Live & Still)	16.1
<u>Death Rate</u> per 1,000 of Estimated Resident Population (Crude)	13.5

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:

	<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 Total Births.</u>
Heading No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis.	Nil.	Nil.
Heading No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes	<u>Nil.</u>	<u>Nil.</u>

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age:

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	49.2
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	17.5
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	500

SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA:

Laboratory Facilities:-

The number of specimens examined by the County and City Public Health Laboratory, Hereford, during the year were as follows:-

Water - Chemical Examination	...	...	4
Bacteriological "	...	...	4
Sputum	...	...	7
Swabs	...	...	111

SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA:

Water:

Certain alterations were made in the water supply of the District. These will be described in detail in a future Annual Report. The alteration resulted in an augmentation, a change which has been necessary for some time.

Drainage and Sewerage:

There have been no important extensions of the sewers during the year.

Public Cleansing:

This continues to be carried out satisfactorily.

Sanitary Inspection of the area:

<u>Inspections:-</u>	Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	-
	Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	3
	Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	7
	Housing and Nuisances	...	...	...	...	130
	Housing Consolidated Regulations 1923	...	...	...	...	-
	Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	8
	Factories with Mechanical Power	...	...	...	...	32
	Factories without Mechanical Power	...	...	...	...	14
	Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	25

Notices Issued:-

Informal	...	...	...	...	...	24
Statutory re Housing	...	...	...	...	...	-
Statutory under Other Acts	3

Summary of Defects Remedied:-

Housing Defects Remedied	114
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Disinfection re Infectious Disease:-

Number of Disinfections	4
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SECTION D. - HOUSING:Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year:-

Total number of Dwelling Houses Inspected for Housing Defects (Under P.H. or Housing Acts)	...	26
Number of Inspections made for the purpose	...	38
Number of Dwelling Houses found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	...	14

Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices:-

Number of Defective Dwelling Houses Rendered fit in consequence of Informal Action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	14
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SECTION E. - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD:Milk Supply:-

There are no Registered Producers of Milk in the Area and consequently no inspections of farms or dairies were made.

Eight retailers are registered. No samples were taken for bacteriological examination during the year.

Meat and Other Foods:-

It has not been possible to carry out a complete inspection of meat etc. exposed for sale in the District, but a certain amount of this work has been carried out.

SECTION F. - PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS & OTHER DISEASES:

The incidence of notifiable disease during the year was somewhat heavy owing to the prevalence of measles (80 cases) and whooping cough (54 cases). These two diseases together gave rise to 134 notifications out of a total of 140 for the year. All of the patients were children under 15 years of age, the highest incidence being in those aged 5 to 15 years. In spite of the prevalence of these diseases in the child population there were no deaths.

The remaining notifications concerned Scarlet Fever (2) Diphtheria (3) and Acute Anterior Polio Myelitis (1). One case of diphtheria occurred in an adult and one in a child who had not been immunised. The third case occurred in an immunised child but was extremely mild. Diphtheria was the only infectious disease admitted to the Stretton Sugwas Isolation Hospital from your District, all three cases received treatment there. It is satisfactory to note that the incidence of diphtheria was low and that there were no deaths. Although the first case occurred in a residential school, the preventive measures taken by the Department were successful in preventing further spread of infection. This success was aided by the fact that a large proportion of the children had received courses of prophylactic.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year 1943:-

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Whooping Cough	54	1	-
Measles	80	-	-
Scarlet Fever	2	-	-
Diphtheria	3	3	-
Acute Anterior Polio- myelitis	1	1	-

Analysis of Total Notified Cases According to Age:-

Disease.	Under 1.	1+	2+	3+	4+	5+	10+	15+	20+	35+	45+	65+	Totals.
Whooping Cough	5	5	7	5	9	22	1	-	-	-	-	-	54
Measles	1	6	8	5	8	43	9	-	-	-	-	-	80
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	3
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Totals	6	11	15	10	17	69	11	-	1	-	-	-	140

Scabies:-

No cases of scabies were brought to the notice of the Department, but this does not necessarily mean that the disease did not occur. Notification is not compulsory and I find it difficult to accept that the disease was entirely absent under the prevailing conditions.

Diphtheria Immunisation:-

This work was continued throughout the year by the Department and by the medical practitioners. The assistance which the Council receives from the practitioners in this respect is very considerable and I feel that the Council would wish me to formally acknowledge this co-operation. It is a fact that cannot be overlooked that the family doctor is able to get children immunised at an early age, and this is very necessary if full protection against diphtheria is to be obtained.

The results for the year are contained in the following table:-

Age Group	1 - 5 years.	5 - 15 years.	1 - 15 years.
Prophylactic	A.P.T.	A.P.T.T.A.T.	
Children Immunised	41	15	57

No post Schick Testing was carried out as this is not possible under present conditions.

Tuberculosis:-

At the end of 1942 there were 19 cases of tuberculosis on the register, 16 pulmonary and 3 non-pulmonary. During 1943, 9 cases were added to the register, 8 pulmonary and 1 non-pulmonary. Four cases were removed from the register these being pulmonary, and on the 31st. December 1943, 24 cases remained on the register, 20 pulmonary and 4 non-pulmonary.

New Cases and Mortality during Year 1943.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15+	-	3	1	-	-	1	-	-
25+	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35+	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
45+	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
55+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-